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Serving God Through Love Or Fear

Wyatt Sawyer

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SERVING GOD THROUGH LOVE OR FEAR

INT: * II Tim. 1:1-10. (Interesting in light of America's LOVE-MANIA:extrem position.) **!!**

I. VITAL, PERSONAL QUESTION:**ALL + !!**A. Are YOU serving God out of LOVE or FEAR?

Six possibilities:

1. Not serving God at all. Neither.
2. All love. (Then, very mature....)
3. All fear. (Then, very immature...)
4. More FEAR than love. Room to grow.
5. More LOVE than fear. Growing.....
6. Proper balance: 90% Love, 10% fear.

HEAVEN.**HELL.**II. FEAR, AS TAUGHT IN GOD'S WORD: In Bible 630 tiA. TERROR: Panic. Matt. 28:1-4. Roman guards.B. DREAD: Afraid. Deut. 11:22-25. Enemies...C. TIMIDITY: Cowardice. John 14:27. **V. 7 !!!**→ NOTE: Service thru any of these: PRIMITIVE.D. REVERENCE:

Holy-fear. Piety toward God. Ecc. 12:13.

Awe of Creature in presence of CREATOR!!!!

WORK OUT! Phil. 2:12 definition: "A controlling motive in life. NOT a mere fear of God's Power and Righteous-Retribution.....BUT... a Wholesome Dread-of-Displeasing a loving Father from whom all blessings come. J.1:17

CONCLUSIONS:Terror, Timidity & Dread are LOWER forms of fear.Reverence, Piety, Awe and Love are HIGHER forms of Fear.

TWO INTERESTING OBERVATIONS:

1. There was LOVE in Israel's fear of God.
2. There is FEAR in Christian's love..God.

III. A TIME AND PLACE FOR EACH KIND OF FEAR.DREAD:A. CHILDHOOD: ignorant. Immature. Primitive.

1. Parents: teach, warn, punish.
(Prov. 13:24. 22:15. 23:13-14.)

Child's learning pattern: Requests.

Commands. (Ill. Joel & trash.)

Threats. (Then, Discipline: paddling, loss of privledges or extra duties...

TERROR??? LOVE!!!

2. Church: Balance! Both! Fear-preaching ONLY creates fear-only response. Love omitted!!!
Ill. Such un-balanced preaching still going: 11-4-67. Whitehaven, Tenn. (F-H President.)
I at ~~FLOODS AVE.~~ in meeting. Heard! 97 responses at Whitehaven! 43 baptized.
Local preacher & wife AGHAST!!! Withdrew own children from meeting.

MEMPHIS.

WANT IT
HERE?

Preacher: Record...1,037 responses so far! YR.
Method: Call all UNBAPTIZED over & over etc.
Intimidated them. Told gruesome tales and ghastly, scary stories.

Members children having nightmares!!!! SAD!!
REFERENCE!

B. YOUTH: More age, experience, culture, education.
Ready: More examples, encouragement, wisdom.

1. Understand society! Need for laws, rules, regulations. BENEFITS EVERYBODY!! Good.
2. Serve God out of WISDOM, UNDERSTANDING, LOVE
ICor. 13:11. Rom. 11:22. II Cor. 5:11.

INV: CHRIST'S PATTERN: G.-S. ALL LOVE!!??

1. Leads with LOVE. Matt. 11:28-30.
(Enough for some!!!) APPEALS. J. 14:15. 15:14.
2. Progresses with WARNINGS:
John 8:24. Lk. 13:3. Matt. 10:32-33.

(Enough for many!!!)

3. Concludes with THREATS.

Mk. 16:15-16. Matt. 16:24-26.

OBVIOUS CONCLUSION: All needed! Isa. 55:8-9.

LOVE. THREATS. WARNINGS.

MY PREFERENCE: I John 5:3. Love obeys lovingly!!!!!!!

WH 1-7-68

SS 6-11-72

MT 4-8-79 PM 1R

V. 8.